

I. AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 10, 16-21, 23-34, 55-56, 60-62, 64, 66-76, 78-80 and 82-86, cancel claims 77 and 81, and add new claims 87-95 as follows.

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured with a shape and outer dimensions that correspond to dimensions of a cargo container employed in the side-loading cargo system of said host aircraft.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 88, wherein said aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured with a shape and dimensions for installation in a said passenger compartment of said host aircraft through a said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein each of said aerial dispersant holding tanks comprises at least one flow opening on a first end of said holding tank, said first flow opening being configured to sealably mate with a flow opening of an adjacent aerial dispersant holding tank when two or more of said aerial dispersant tanks are positioned in adjacent end-to-end relationship within the baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein a first one of said aerial dispersant holding tanks is configured to be coupled to at least a second one of said aerial dispersant holding tanks to provide a dispersant material flow path from said first aerial

dispersant holding tank to said second aerial dispersant holding tank when said first and second aerial dispersant tanks are positioned in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within the baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said dispersal regulator comprises at least a part of a dispersal equipment container or a dispersal equipment pallet.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a pump.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein at least one of said first or second aerial dispersant tanks comprises flow control equipment configured to control flow of materials from said first aerial dispersant holding tank to said second aerial dispersant holding tank.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, further comprising providing a cargo door configured to be removably disposed within a said cargo opening of said host aircraft; disposing said cargo door within said cargo opening of said host aircraft; and ~~wherein said~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is configured to be coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said cargo door.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~20~~ 88, ~~wherein said aerial dispersion system~~ further comprising providing ~~comprises~~ a passenger door configured to be removably disposed within a passenger door opening of said host aircraft; and ~~wherein~~

coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is configured to be coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said passenger door.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks comprise a material containment subsystem; wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a material dispersal subsystem; and ~~wherein said aerial dispersion system~~ wherein said method further comprises providing a control subsystem and configured to be coupled coupling said control subsystem to said material containment subsystem and said material dispersal subsystem.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, ~~wherein said aerial dispersion system further comprises~~ comprising providing a navigation subsystem, a communications subsystem, and a sensor subsystem; ~~wherein~~ coupling said navigation subsystem, communications subsystem, and sensor subsystem ~~are configured to be coupled~~ to said control subsystem; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said control subsystem, said navigation subsystem and said communications subsystem ~~are configured to be coupled~~ to one or more Host Aircraft Systems.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of temporarily converting at least one fixed wing host aircraft for aerial dispersion purposes, comprising:

providing a fixed wing host aircraft having a side cargo opening;

providing two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said aerial dispersant holding tanks being configured to be compatible with a side-loading aircraft cargo system of said fixed wing host aircraft;

sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks through said side cargo opening of said fixed wing host aircraft into a baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft;

coupling said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks together within said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flow path;

providing a dispersal regulator and airborne dispersal device coupled to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks coupled together within said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft; and

then removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft through said side cargo opening of said fixed wing host aircraft

~~installing an aerial dispersion system on said fixed wing host aircraft to form an aircraft based material dispersion system; and~~

~~then removing said aerial dispersion system from said fixed wing host aircraft;~~

~~wherein said aerial dispersion system comprises:~~

~~two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks configured to be sequentially loaded into said host aircraft and coupled together within said host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flow path,~~

~~a dispersal regulator configured to be coupled to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks, and~~

~~an airborne dispersal device configured to be coupled to said dispersal regulator; and~~

~~wherein said aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured with a shape and outer dimensions that correspond to dimensions of a cargo container employed in a side loading cargo system of said fixed wing host aircraft, or wherein said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured for installation and removal from an aircraft passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through a passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.~~

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An aerial dispersion method~~ The method of claim 20, further comprising aerially dispersing a material from said fixed wing host aircraft aircraft-based material dispersion system of claim 20 after sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks through said side cargo opening of said fixed wing host aircraft into said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft installing said aerial dispersion system on said host fixed wing aircraft and prior to removing said aerial dispersion system from said fixed wing host aircraft said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft through said side cargo opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, ~~wherein~~ comprising installing and removing said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are configured to be removably disposed~~ within said baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft using said side-loading cargo system of said host aircraft.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, ~~wherein~~ comprising installing and removing said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are configured to be removably disposed~~ within a passenger compartment of said host aircraft through said passenger door opening.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~comprises~~ by removably disposing and coupling together two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks coupled in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within said baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~comprises~~ by removably disposing and coupling together two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~coupled together and removably disposed~~ in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within said passenger compartment of said host aircraft.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~further comprises~~ by providing and coupling flow control equipment ~~coupled~~ to at least one of said aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~and configured~~ to control flow of materials between two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 25, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~further comprises~~ by providing and removably disposing a cargo door ~~removably disposed~~ within a cargo opening of said

host aircraft; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said cargo door.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 26, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~further comprises by providing~~ and removably disposing a passenger door ~~removably disposed~~ within a passenger door opening of said host aircraft; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said passenger door.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, ~~wherein~~ further comprising removably installing said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device ~~are removably installed~~ on said host aircraft.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, wherein said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks comprise a material containment subsystem; wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a material dispersal subsystem; and wherein said method further comprises forming said aerial dispersion system ~~further comprises by providing~~ and coupling a control subsystem ~~coupled~~ to said material containment subsystem and said material dispersal subsystem.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, ~~wherein~~ further comprising forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~further comprises by providing~~ and coupling a navigation subsystem, a communications subsystem, and a sensor subsystem; ~~wherein said navigation subsystem, communications subsystem, and sensor subsystem are coupled~~ to said control subsystem; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said control subsystem, said navigation subsystem and said communications subsystem ~~are coupled~~ to one or more Host Aircraft Systems.

33. (Currently Amended) An aerial dispersion method, comprising:

temporarily converting at least one fixed-wing host aircraft for aerial dispersion purposes by installing two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, a dispersal regulator and an airborne dispersal device on said fixed wing host aircraft to form at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system prior to aerially dispersing one or more materials from said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system;

then aerially dispersing one or more materials from said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system;

then removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device from said fixed wing host aircraft after aerially dispersing said one or more materials from said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system;

wherein said method further comprises forming said at least one aircraft-based material dispersion system by comprises:

providing said fixed wing host aircraft,

providing and sequentially disposing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~sequentially disposed~~ within said fixed wing host aircraft, and coupling together said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~being coupled together~~ within said fixed wing host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flowpath,

providing and disposing said dispersal regulator ~~disposed~~ on said fixed wing host aircraft and ~~coupled~~ coupling said dispersal regulator to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks, and

providing and disposing said airborne dispersal device ~~disposed~~ on said fixed wing host aircraft and ~~coupled~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device to said dispersal regulator [[,]] ; and

wherein said method further comprises installing and removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are disposed~~ within a baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft ~~and are configured to be compatible with~~ using a side-loading aircraft cargo system of said fixed wing host aircraft [[,]] ; or

wherein said method further comprises installing and removing said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are disposed~~ within a passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft ~~and are configured for installation and removal from an aircraft passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft~~ through a passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

34. (Currently Amended) The aerial dispersion method of claim 33, comprising aially dispersing one or more materials in a coordinated manner from a fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems of claim 33; and wherein said method further comprises installing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device on each aircraft of said fleet of said ~~fixed wing host aircraft~~ aircraft-based material dispersion systems prior to aially dispersing said one or more materials from said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems; and wherein said method further comprises removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device from

each aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems ~~fixed-wing host aircraft~~ after aerially dispersing said one or more materials from said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said host aircraft comprises a wide body aircraft.

36-51. (Cancelled)

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said host aircraft comprises a wide body aircraft.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said host aircraft comprises a commercial passenger or commercial cargo plane.

55. (Currently Amended) The ~~aerial dispersion~~ method of claim 21, further comprising installing at least first and second of said aerial dispersant holding tanks into a said baggage or cargo hold of said host fixed wing aircraft by slidably or rollably transporting said first and second aerial dispersant holding tanks within said baggage or cargo hold in a forward or rearward direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the aircraft fuselage; and stacking said first and second aerial dispersant holding tanks in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within said baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft.

56. (Currently Amended) The aerial dispersion method of claim 21, wherein said method comprises aerially dispersing said material from said ~~aircraft-based material dispersion system~~ fixed wing host aircraft to suppress a fire prior to removing said ~~aerial dispersion system from said fixed wing host aircraft~~ said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing host aircraft through said side cargo opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein said host aircraft comprises a commercial passenger or commercial cargo plane.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured with a shape and outer dimensions that correspond to dimensions of a cargo container employed in said side-loading cargo system of said host aircraft.

59. (Previously Presented) The aerial dispersion method of claim 33, wherein said method comprises aerially dispersing said one or more materials from said aircraft-based material dispersion system to suppress a fire prior to removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device from said fixed wing host aircraft.

60. (Currently Amended) The aerial dispersion method of claim 34, wherein said method comprises aerially dispersing said one or more materials from said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems to suppress a fire prior to removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device from each aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems ~~fixed wing host aircraft.~~

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, ~~wherein~~ further comprising disposing and stacking said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are disposed and stacked~~ in end to end manner within said baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fuselage of said aircraft.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 61, ~~wherein~~ further comprising disposing said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are disposed~~ within said baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft ~~upon a surface configured to allow said cargo containers to be and~~ slidably or rollably transported transporting said cargo containers forward or rearward in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of said aircraft fuselage.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 52, wherein said host aircraft has a gross carrying capacity of greater than or equal to about 100,000 pounds.

64. (Currently Amended) A method of temporarily converting at least one fixed wing wide body host aircraft for aerial dispersion purposes comprising:

providing a fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

operating said fixed wing wide body host aircraft in conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration for commercial passenger or commercial cargo use;

then converting said fixed wing wide body host aircraft for aerial dispersion operations by providing and installing one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within said fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

then aerially dispersing one or more materials from said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks installed within said fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

then returning said fixed wing wide body host aircraft to said conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration by removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from said fixed wing wide body host aircraft; and

then operating said fixed wing wide body host aircraft for commercial passenger or commercial cargo use

~~installing one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within said fixed wing wide body host aircraft to form an aircraft based material dispersion system;~~
~~and~~

~~then removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.~~

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 64, wherein said fixed wing wide body host aircraft has a gross carrying capacity of greater than or equal to about 100,000 pounds.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 65, wherein said fixed wing wide body host aircraft comprises a wide body passenger ~~or wide body cargo plane.~~

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said fixed wing wide body host aircraft has a side-loading cargo system; ~~and~~ wherein said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured as cargo containers; and wherein said method further comprises ~~that are~~ removably disposed disposing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within a baggage or cargo hold of said host aircraft using said side-loading cargo system of said host aircraft.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said fixed wing wide body host aircraft has at least one passenger door opening for access to a passenger compartment of said aircraft; ~~and~~ wherein said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured as cargo containers; and wherein said method further comprises ~~that are~~ removably disposed disposing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within a passenger compartment of said wide body host aircraft through said passenger door opening.

69. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, ~~wherein said aircraft-based material dispersion system comprises~~ further comprising removably disposing and coupling together two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~coupled together and removably disposed~~ in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.

70. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 68, ~~wherein said aircraft-based material dispersion system comprises~~ further comprising removably disposing and coupling together two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~coupled together and removably disposed~~ in adjacent front end-to-rear end relationship within said passenger compartment of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.

71. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, ~~wherein said aircraft-based material dispersion system~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising providing and coupling flow control equipment ~~coupled~~ to at least one of said aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~and configured~~ to control flow of materials between two or more of said aerial dispersant holding tanks.

72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 69, ~~wherein said aircraft-based material dispersion system~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising providing and removably disposing a cargo door ~~removably disposed~~ within a cargo opening of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said cargo door.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 70, ~~wherein said aircraft-based material dispersion system~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising providing and removably disposing a passenger door ~~removably disposed~~ within a passenger door opening of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft; and ~~wherein~~ coupling said airborne dispersal device ~~is coupled~~ to said dispersal regulator through said passenger door.

74. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, ~~wherein~~ removably installing said dispersal regulator and said airborne dispersal device ~~are removably installed~~ on said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks comprise a material containment subsystem; wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a material dispersal subsystem; and wherein said method further comprises providing and coupling aircraft-based material dispersion system ~~further comprises~~ a control subsystem ~~coupled~~ to said material containment subsystem and said material dispersal subsystem.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 75, wherein said method further comprises providing and coupling aircraft-based material dispersion system further comprises a navigation subsystem, a communications subsystem, and a sensor subsystem; wherein said navigation subsystem, communications subsystem, and sensor subsystem are coupled to said control subsystem; and wherein coupling said control subsystem, said navigation subsystem and said communications subsystem are coupled to one or more Host Aircraft Systems.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~64~~ 77, wherein said method comprises aurally dispersing said one or more materials from said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks installed within said fixed wing wide body host aircraft from said aircraft-based material dispersion system to suppress a fire after converting said fixed wing wide body host aircraft for aerial dispersion operations and prior to returning said fixed wing wide body host aircraft to said conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration ~~removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from within said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.~~

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, wherein said method comprises:

providing two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

operating said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft in conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration for commercial passenger or commercial cargo use;

then converting said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft to a fleet of two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft configured for aerial dispersion operations by providing and installing one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within each of said two or more said fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

then aerially dispersing one or more materials from said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks installed within each of said fleet of two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft;

then returning said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft to said conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration by removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from each of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft; and

then operating said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft for commercial passenger or commercial cargo use

~~converting two or more host fixed wing wide body aircraft to a fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems by installing one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within each of said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft to form a fleet of aircraft based material dispersion systems, each of said two or more host fixed wing wide body aircraft having a conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration prior to installing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks within each of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft;~~

~~aerially dispersing one or more materials from said fleet of aircraft based material dispersion systems; and~~

~~then removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from within each of said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft to return said two or more host fixed wing wide body aircraft to said conventional passenger or conventional cargo configuration.~~

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 79, wherein said method comprises aeri ally dispersing said one or more materials from said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks installed within each of said fleet of two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft ~~aircraft-based material dispersion systems~~ to suppress a fire prior to removing said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks from within each of said two or more fixed wing wide body host aircraft.

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 67, wherein said ~~two~~ one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks are configured with a shape and outer dimensions that correspond to dimensions of a cargo container employed in said side-loading cargo system of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 82, ~~wherein~~ further comprising disposing and stacking said ~~two~~ one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks ~~are disposed and stacked~~ in end to end manner within said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fuselage of said aircraft.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 83, ~~wherein further comprising disposing said ~~two~~ one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks are disposed within said baggage or cargo hold of said fixed wing wide body host aircraft upon a surface configured to allow said cargo containers to be~~ by slidably or rollably ~~transported~~ transporting said one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks upon a surface within said baggage or cargo hold forward or rearward in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of said aircraft fuselage.

85. (Currently Amended) ~~An aerial dispersion method, comprising~~ The method of claim 20, wherein said method comprises:

providing two or more fixed wing host aircraft, each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft having a side cargo opening;

providing two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks for each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft, said aerial dispersant holding tanks being configured to be compatible with a side-loading aircraft cargo system of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft;

sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks through said side cargo opening of each of said fixed wing host aircraft into a baggage or cargo hold of each of said fixed wing host aircraft;

coupling said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks together within said baggage or cargo hold of each of said fixed wing host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flow path; and

providing a dispersal regulator and airborne dispersal device coupled to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks coupled together within said baggage or cargo hold of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft;

then aerially dispersing one or more materials from said two or more fixed wing host aircraft as a fleet in a coordinated manner; and

then removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from said baggage or cargo hold of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft through said side cargo opening of each of said fixed wing host aircraft

~~installing an aerial dispersion system of claim 20 on aircraft of a fleet of said fixed wing host aircraft to form a fleet of aircraft based material dispersion systems of claim 20;~~

~~then aerially dispersing one or more materials in a coordinated manner from said fleet of aircraft based material dispersion systems of claim 20; and~~

~~then removing said aerial dispersion systems of claim 20 from each aircraft of said fleet of fixed wing host aircraft.~~

86. (Currently Amended) The ~~aerial dispersion~~ method of claim 85, ~~wherein said method comprises~~ further comprising aerially dispersing said one or more materials from said two or more fixed wing host aircraft as a fleet ~~said fleet of aircraft based material dispersion systems~~ to suppress a fire prior to removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from said baggage or cargo hold of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft ~~said aerial dispersion systems of claim 20 from each aircraft of said fleet of fixed wing host aircraft.~~

87. (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising:

providing a control subsystem for each of said fixed wing host aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems, said control subsystem

being configured to control at least one of material dispersement or flight characteristics of said fixed wing host aircraft of each of said aircraft-based material dispersion systems;

providing communication between said control subsystem of each of said fixed wing host aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems and at least one of a ground source or another airborne source;

controlling aerial dispersion operations of each of said fixed wing host aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems by communicating from at least one of said ground source or said another airborne source to said control subsystem of each of said fixed wing host aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems to provide common control to direct at least one of flight path or release of materials from each of said fixed wing host aircraft of said fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems and to aurally disperse said one or more materials from said fleet of fleet of aircraft-based material dispersion systems in a coordinated manner.

88. (New) A method of temporarily converting at least one fixed wing host aircraft for aerial dispersion purposes, comprising:

providing a fixed wing host aircraft having a passenger compartment and a passenger door opening;

providing two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said aerial dispersant holding tanks being configured for installation and removal from said passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft;

sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks into said aircraft passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft;

coupling said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks together within said passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flow path; and

providing a dispersal regulator and airborne dispersal device coupled to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks coupled together within said passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft; and

then removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from within said passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said dispersal regulator comprises at least a part of a dispersal equipment container or a dispersal equipment pallet.

90. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a pump.

91. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks comprise a material containment subsystem; wherein said dispersal regulator comprises a material dispersal subsystem; and wherein said method further comprises providing a control subsystem and coupling said control subsystem to said material containment subsystem and said material dispersal subsystem.

92. (New) The method of claim 89, further comprising providing a navigation subsystem, a communications subsystem, and a sensor subsystem; coupling said navigation

subsystem, communications subsystem, and sensor subsystem to said control subsystem; and coupling said control subsystem, said navigation subsystem and said communications subsystem to one or more Host Aircraft Systems.

93. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising aerially dispersing a material from said fixed wing host aircraft after sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks into said aircraft passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft and prior to removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from within said passenger compartment of said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft.

94. (New) The method of claim 88, wherein said method comprises:

providing two or more fixed wing host aircraft, each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft having a passenger compartment and a passenger door opening;

providing two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks, said aerial dispersant holding tanks being configured for installation and removal from said passenger compartment of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft;

sequentially loading said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks into said aircraft passenger compartment of each of said two or more said fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of said fixed wing host aircraft;

coupling said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks together within said passenger compartment of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft to provide a dispersant material flow path; and

providing a dispersal regulator and airborne dispersal device coupled to said two or more aerial dispersant holding tanks coupled together within said passenger compartment of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft; and

then removing said two or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from within said passenger compartment of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft through said passenger door opening of each of said fixed wing host aircraft.

95. (New) A method of temporarily converting two or more fixed wing host aircraft for aerial dispersion purposes, comprising:

providing two or more fixed wing host aircraft;

providing and loading one or more aerial dispersant holding tanks into each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft;

providing a control subsystem for each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft, said control subsystem being configured to control at least one of material dispersement or flight characteristics of said fixed wing host aircraft;

providing communication between said control subsystem of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft and at least one of a ground source or another airborne source;

controlling aerial dispersion operations of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft as a fleet by communicating from at least one of said ground source or said another airborne source to said control subsystem of each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft to provide common control to direct at least one of flight path or release of materials from each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft and to aially disperse said one or more materials from said fleet of two or more fixed wing host aircraft in a coordinated manner; and

then removing said one or more modular aerial dispersant holding tanks from each of said two or more fixed wing host aircraft.